

FAMILY FUN



Lisa Stewart

'Til Midnight at the Nasher includes a movie, picnic dining and much more.

Special programs add to summer's fun at art and cultural centers

By **NANCY CHURNIN**
Staff Writer
nchurnin@dallasnews.com

One of the best-kept secrets of summer is how much fun it can be for kids to slip away to museums. Yes, museums — especially when they set aside regular free and activity-packed days that make learning a blast. In addition, admission to the regular collections at the Crow Collection of Asian Art, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Latino Cultural Center, the Amon Carter Museum of American Art and the Sid Richardson Museum is always free, although most charge for some special events, exhibitions and classes.

Here are some favorites:

DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART The museum has two big free family summer days planned, plus its monthly First Tuesdays programming.

■ 1717 N. Harwood, Dallas. 214-922-1200.
DallasMuseumofArt.org.

BooksArt: The fest features authors, illustrators, musicians and workshops. Highlights include *Rotten Ralph* author and Newbery Medal winner Jack Gantos and actor-turned-author Taye Diggs, who has teamed up with Coretta Scott King Award winner Shane Evans on the children's book

Chocolate Mel, about feeling different and trying to fit in. June 9 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WFAA Family First Day: The July 28 event offers art-making activities, music, performances and sketching from 11 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m.

First Tuesdays: The first Tuesday of each month is packed with art activities and entertainment. The June 5 theme is, fittingly, "Summer Days," featuring Radio Disney, a chance to make a leash for an invisible dog, get a temporary tattoo, sketch with artist Solange Mariel, take part in a family art competition and see *String Fling*, a puppet show by Le Theatre de Marionette. June 5, July 3 and Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

master with graphite, creating from it a refrigerator, an energy-saving light bulb and an ATM machine. Finally, he does amazing things with, of all things, chewing gum.

■ Through July 28 at Goss-Michael Foundation, 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd., Dallas. Free. 214-696-0555. gossmichaelfoundation.org.

DAVID NAPP

British watercolor master Napp, recently commissioned by the Duke of Kent, often shows in London. "Over the years, I have witnessed... the welcomed acknowledgment of [Napp by] artistic peers, art dealers, film stars and royalty," says Dallas gallery owner Alan Barnes, who is hosting the painter's work.

■ Through June 12 at Alan Barnes Fine Art Dealers, 2800 N. Henderson Ave., Dallas. Free. 214-828-1311. alanbarnesfineart.com.

MARK SMITH

Smith's new show at William Campbell Contemporary Art in Fort Worth carries with it an altruistic fringe benefit: A portion of the proceeds from exhibition sales will benefit the Clarity Foundation, which provides patients with molecular profiling of ovarian cancer tumors in an effort to find the best drugs for ovarian cancer treatment. The exhibit includes paintings on wood panel and works on paper.

■ Through June 16 at William Campbell Contemporary Art, 4935 Byers Ave., Fort Worth. Free. 817-737-9566. williamcampbellcontemporaryart.com.

BETSY WILLIAMSON

Kudos to the McKinney Avenue Contemporary, a.k.a. the MAC, for opening an alternative space in downtown Dallas. It picked the Mercantile Coffee House, where Williamson is the latest artist featured, with her show "Rewriting Art History."

■ Through June 23 at Mercantile Coffee House, 1800 Main St., Dallas. Free. 214-953-12312. the-mac.org.

MURIELLE WHITE

White was born and raised in France in a culturally diverse family. Her four grandparents are from four different French colonies and territories. Her family is the driving force behind her work, as evidenced by her large colorful paintings in the exhibit "Letters From Home," now at Cris Worley Fine Arts.

■ Through June 16 at 2277 Monitor St., Dallas. Free. 214-641-9266. crisworley.com.

Compiled by Michael Granberry

MAJOR EXHIBITS

AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

817-738-1933. cartermuseum.org.

■ "Sargent's Youthful Genius: Paintings From the Clark" spotlights four paintings by John Singer Sargent (1856-1925), on loan from the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass., including 1880's *Fumée d'Ambre Gris*, a nuanced study of creams and whites. The show is part of a joint program with the Kimbell Art Museum, which is showing impressionist works from the Clark. Through June 17.

CROW COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART

214-979-6430. crowcollection.org.

■ "Noble Change: Tantric Art of the High Himalaya" showcases sculptures and textiles drawn from a collection of tantric art recently acquired by Trammell S. Crow. "Some are peaceful, some semi-ferocious, and some fierce. All are compassionate," say the curators. Through Feb. 10.

DALLAS ARBORETUM

214-515-6500. dallasarboretum.org.

■ "Chihuly at the Dallas Arboretum" is a 15-installation show of the works of famed glass artist Dale Chihuly, incorporating thousands of individual pieces of glass in sculptures throughout the gardens. Chihuly Nights allows after-dark viewing of the illuminated glass Tuesdays-Thursdays (advance tickets required). Through Nov. 5.

DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART

214-922-1200.

DallasMuseumofArt.org.

■ "Flower of the Prairie: George Grosz in Dallas" features 20 works from the "Impressions of Dallas" exhibit of Grosz's paintings, first shown in 1952 at the DMA when it was located in Fair Park. The show also spotlights a selection of historic photographs of Dallas, documenting the city as Grosz discovered it. Through Aug. 19.

■ "Texas in the Twenties: Prints, Drawings, and Photographs From Lone Star Collections" includes images of Texas during the 1920s made by Texas artists. About 30 works are featured, including pieces by L.O. Griffith, Mary Anita Bonner and Eugene Omar Goldbeck. Through July 1.

■ "Face to Face: International Art at the DMA" pairs works from the museum's permanent collection given by long-



Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Mass.

Fumée d'Ambre Gris (Smoke of Ambergris) by John Singer Sargent at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art

standing local patrons. The exhibit coincides with the release of a new collection handbook documenting the museum's growth since its founding in 1903. The \$24.95 full-color paperback guide highlights more than 400 works of art and features an introduction by former museum director Bonnie Pitman. Through June 10.

KIMBELL ART MUSEUM

817-332-8451. kimbellart.org.

■ "The Age of Impressionism: Great French Paintings From the Clark" showcases more than 70 works by Renoir, Degas, Monet and more, all on loan from the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass. Through June 17.

MEADOWS MUSEUM

214-768-2516. meadowsmuseumdallas.org.

■ "Modern Mexican Painting From the Andrés Blaisten Collection" spotlights 80 fundamental works from this collection, with pieces by more than 40 outstanding Mexican artists of the early 20th century, including Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and Rufino Tamayo. Through Aug. 12.

MODERN ART MUSEUM OF FORT WORTH

817-738-9215. themodern.org.

■ "Focus: Ged Quinn" showcases the English artist's panoramic paintings, which organizers say "combine landscapes in the vein of Claude Lorrain, Jacob van Ruisdael and Asher B. Durand, with incongruent and often dark figments of history, mythology and the artist's imagination." Through June 17.

LAST CHANCE

"Glenn Ligon: America" is the first comprehensive midcareer retrospective of Ligon, surveying 25 years of his work. The exhibition features roughly 100 works, including paintings, prints, photography, drawings and sculptural installations, as well as the artist's recent striking neon reliefs. Through June 3.

MUSEUM OF BIBLICAL ART

214-368-4622. biblicalarts.org.

■ "Frederick Hart," 15 works in clear acrylic, marble and bronze by the master American sculptor. Through June 30.

■ "The King James Bible Exhibit," original editions from the private collection of Charles Ryrie, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Through June 30.

NASHER SCULPTURE CENTER

214-242-5100. nashersculpturecenter.org.

■ "Ernesto Neto: Cuddle on the Tightrope" spotlights a new work developed expressly for the Nasher, occupying the light-filled space of the museum's upstairs gallery. The work continues the renowned Brazilian artist's exploration of elevated environments and crochet, adding a new element of metal structural supports. Through Sept. 9.

■ "Sightings: Erick Swenson" is the center's first exhibit of work by the Dallas-based artist, who graduated from the University of North Texas in Denton. Nasher director Jeremy Strick calls the sculptural works "haunting, beautiful and surprising; testaments to the most painstaking dedication to process." Through July 8.

Compiled by Joy Tipping